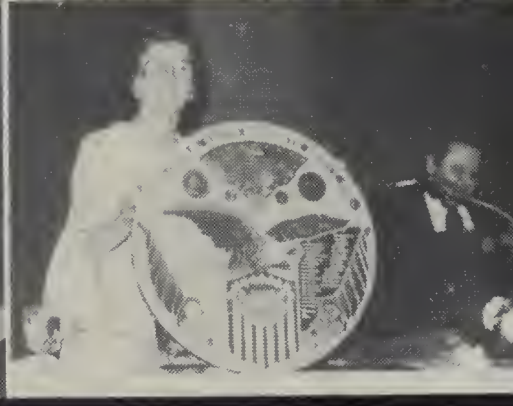
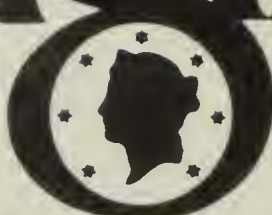


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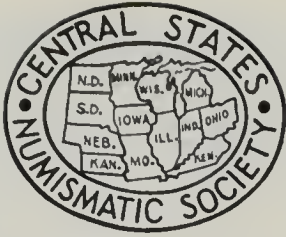
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the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

VOL. 27, No. 1

Summer, 1979

FANTASTIC, TOP-NOTCH, MARVELOUS ! THE CENTINEL STAFF

Bring out the dictionary. It would probably take every superlative in the book to describe the 40th Anniversary Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society in Dearborn, Mich. Fantastic! Wonderful! Marvelous! — strong words but entirely inadequate.

Rather than ask the Convention Chairperson to take a bow, the membership of CSNS should bow low to Helen Sedo and her staff of dedicated workers. From a tender, teen-age, young lady to a veteran charter member of the Dearborn Coin Club, they deserve all the kudos that can be heaped on them. Accommodating, friendly, tireless, super people!!

It has been said many times that the convention of the C. S. N. S. is the second largest coin show in the country but this one will serve notice on the A. N. A. Look to your laurels A. N. A. The host clubs who stage the conventions of C. S. N. S. are breathing down your necks.

If exhibits make the show, more than 100 cases of gorgeous material thrilled the hundreds of viewers and collectors. A real personal effort by Gene Collister, Chairman of Exhibits. Coincidentally, members of the host club for the 1930 convention in Lincoln, Nebraska, walked off with a truck-load of awards. For the first time in a long careers of judging exhibits, your

reporter saw an exhibit score 100%. A fantastic display of the "Odd and Curious Monies of China" took the Best-In-Show, the B. Max Mehl Trophy of the Central States Numismatic Society.

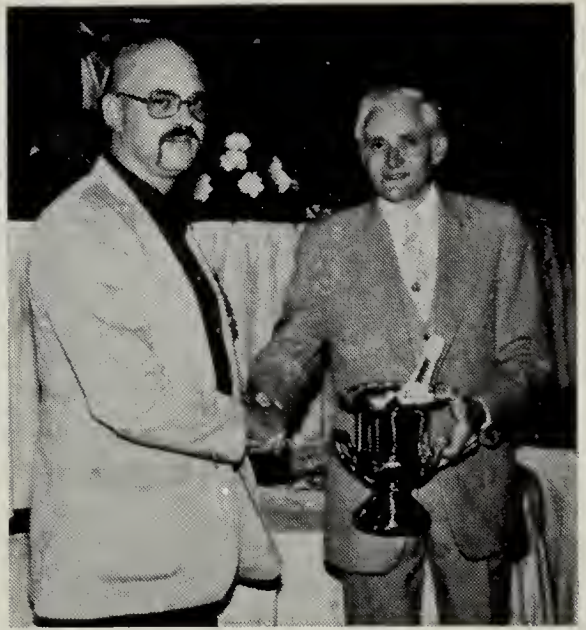
One hundred seventy-five nationally known dealers pronounced the show an unqualified success. Kagin's, the auctioneers, were well pleased with the response from the horde bidding on the superb material offered.

The traditional banquet on Saturday evening was highlighted by the awarding of the outstanding literary contribution to The Centinel, The Lewis M. Reagan Foundation Award, to Victor C. Seibert of Kansas. The largest number of Medals of Merit of the C. S. N. S. were given to six beaming and deserving ladies. Krause Publications presented their Numismatic Ambassador Award to Ray O. Lefman, Past President and long-time member of the Governing Board of C. S. N. S.

Much of the credit for the orderly procedures in the Bourse and Auction Rooms must go to John Slawinski, Bourse Chairman. The many facets of this superb convention were quietly and efficiently handled by Dearborn Coin Club members. All-in-all, a fantastic convention in an outstanding location. It will be difficult to even approach the overall quality of this convention, much less, surpass it!!!

EXHIBIT WINNERS . . .

39th Anniversary Convention at Dearborn, Michigan



JUNIORS

1st - Marilyn Schwartz, "Peace Dollar"; 2nd - Dan Zabowski, "Canadian Mountie Dollar"; 3rd - Donna Marz, "The 1971 Eisenhower Dollar".

MISCELLANEOUS

1st - Chris Wilken Jr., "Odd and Curious Money of China"; 2nd - Vickie Klausch, "First Day Covers on Coins and Stamps"; 3rd - Robert Lemke, "Nineteen Specimens of Numismatically Interesting Paper Collectibles".

MEDALS

1st - L. Mackie Smith, "The Panama Canal Story"; 2nd - Vickie Klausch, "Thompson Metallic Bible Silver Proof"; 3rd - Charles Fenwick, "Selected U. S. Military Medals".

PAPER MONEY

1st - John Wilson, "Seldom Seen Saddle Blankets"; 2nd - Fred Schwan, "Mysterious Military Currency"; 3rd - Samuel Johnson, "Sparta and Coulterville, Illinois, National Currency".

FOREIGN COINS AFTER 1500 A. D.

1st - Peter Phillips, "Commemoratives of Canada"; 2nd - Chris Wilkins Jr., "Silver Coinage of the Tokugawa Shogunate"; 3rd - Bill Slate, "Living Females on European Coins".

COINS BEFORE 1500 A. D.

1st - Robert Kutcher, "Atheneian Tetradrachms"; 2nd - Henry Dudzinski, "Henry J. Dudzinski"; 3rd - Robert Kutcher, "Coins of the Bible".

GOLD COINS

1st - Sammy Whipple, "George III"; 2nd - Vickie Klausch, "12 Pieces of U. S. Gold Set"; 3rd - Samuel Johnson, "Various Popular Mexican Gold Coins".

U. S. COINS

1st - Robert Krueger, "Rarest of 20th Century Silver Coin, the 1918/7 Standing Liberty Quarter"; 2nd - Sandy Sedo, "Types of U. S. Small Cents"; 3rd - John Jaynes, "Seated Liberty Material".

B. Max Mehl Award (Best-In-Show) "Odd and Curious Moneys of China"

Julian Marx Award (Best In Paper) "Seldom Seen Saddle Blankets"

Lowell Owen Award (Juniors) "Peace Dollar"

PRESIDENTIAL

COMMENTARY

All of you who attended the CSNS 40th Anniversary Convention in Dearborn will agree that Helen Sedo, General Chairperson, and her committees provided us with an outstanding performance — kept everything on an even keel throughout the show — and certainly deserves many thanks for all their work. What more can I say — it was a great show all the way.

The banquet Saturday night was one of the highlights of the Convention, at which time the winning exhibitors received their awards. Ray Lefman, past president and board member — also a CSNS booster for many years — received the Krause Publications Ambassador Award, presented to him by Cliff Mishler, publisher of Numismatic News. Dancing followed and all present surely enjoyed the evening.

I have not seen the attendance figures, but the bourse area was packed every day of the show.

Dan Parker, our new editor of The Centinel, is doing great with our CSNS publication and I thank him for his many hours of work — also, Marjorie Owen for her untiring efforts as Secretary-Treasurer. I also want to thank the governing board for their fine attendance and the many problems which they have resolved.

We received a letter from our Honorary President, Lee Hewitt, with his regrets for not being able to attend the convention due to illness of his wife. This was his first absence from the annual show in 40 years and we all missed him.



A. P. "Del" Bertschy

Our 40th Anniversary Convention is now history and we look forward to the 41st, which will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, with Larry Rowe as General Chairman. Make your plans now for this event, April 17-20, 1980.

A. P. "Del" Bertschy
President

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A MESSAGE FROM THE

SECRETARY



What a great job of organizing and promoting a convention was done by those people in Dearborn! It just goes to show what a dedicated group of numismatists can accomplish.

It was one of the most active conventions I have ever been associated with and, as you will note by the list of applications, evidently I wasn't the only one who "got the spirit".

Our membership seems to grow by leaps and bounds, proving again that the hobby is alive and flourishing.

One thing continues to bother me, in regard to these conventions. That is the relatively small turnout of members for the annual membership meeting. There were a number of changes in the By-Laws to be voted upon this year, and I was disappointed to see so few people interested in voicing their

opinions. This meeting only lasts about an hour, and I would like to think the members were sufficiently interested to attend.

Speaking of the By-Laws, there will be, in The Centinel in the near future, a copy of these mailed out with The Centinel. Be sure you keep this copy in a safe place so you can refer to it whenever any question comes up.

I am happy to report to you that CSNS will be sponsoring one day of the hospitality room in St. Louis at the ANA this summer. Be sure to drop in and visit with your CSNS friends.

Also, we are arranging to sponsor one of our Junior members to the summer seminar of the ANA in Colorado Springs in 1980. Details of how to submit a candidate will be published in a future Centinel.

Our conventions schedule is now completed through 1984. These conventions are listed elsewhere in each issue. As soon as a chairman is selected, the address is also published for your convenience in applying for bourse or exhibit space.

Don't forget to send me your change of address. It not only guarantees your copy of The Centinel, it saves your organization money in return postage. The Post Office has blanks for this purpose.

MARJORIE M. OWEN
Secretary

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The following applications for membership have been received
by the Secretary-Treasurer

LIFE MEMBERS

186	Larry White	Liberty Center, Ohio
187	Kamal Awash	Media, Penn.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

3198	Janet Keeth	Allen Park Michigan
3199	D. Randolph Hammitt	Iowa City, Iowa
3200	Timothy LaPointe	Boston, Mass.
3201	Steve Blum	Edison, New Jersey
3202	Robert L. Fanger	Fort Wayne, Indiana
3203	Leo Keeth	Allen Park, Michigan
3204	Henry J. Dudzinski	Detroit, Michigan
3205	Karl Wildfang	West Des Moines, Iowa
3206	Raymond D. White	Barrington, Illinois
3207	George S. Cuhaj	Long Island City, New York
3208J	Joy Zabowski	Warren, Michigan
3209J	Dan Zabowski	Warren, Michigan
3210J	David Schwartz	Warren, Michigan
3211J	Robert Romanchuk	Warren, Michigan
3212J	Donna Marz	Warren, Michigan
3213J	Stephen Schwartz	Warren, Michigan
3214J	Marilyn Schwartz	Warren, Michigan
3215	Edwin M. Maugham	Youngstown, Ohio
3216	Robert L. Hughes	Beverly Hills, Calif.
3217	Maria T. Scarpitti	Akron, Ohio
32-8	Steve Kollar	South Bend, Indiana
3219	Joseph M. Flynn, Jr.	Kansas City, Kansas
3220	Jerry G. Naylor	Kansas City Missouri
3221	Stan Adelman	Atlanta, Georgia
3222	Ken Keisel	Trenton, Michigan
3223	David A. Berg	Monroeville, Penn.
3224	Ruth Ann Phillips	Madison, Wisconsin
3225	Tim Torpin	San Diego, Calif.
3226	Grant Monck	London, Ontario, Canada
3227	Walter M. Burks, Jr.	Kansas City, Kansas
3228	Jean A. Bullen	Loves Park, Illinois
3229	Paul Del Grosso	Birmingham, Michigan
3230	W. Crutchfield Williams II	Kemah, Texas
3231	Stanley Clute	Willowdale, Ontario, Canada
3232	Jack Messina	Sterling Heights, Michigan
3233	William B. Burr, Jr.	Troy, Michigan
3234	Walter Schuette	Ames, Iowa
3235	Francis F. Wilford	Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
3236	Rich Richardson	Atlanta, Georgia
3237	Leroy Lenhart	Studio City, Calif.
3238	Bruce Smith	Fort Wayne, Indiana
3239	James R. Hausman	Springfield, Illinois
3240	William Tuite	Livonia, Michigan

3241	Charles Karler	Albuquerque, New Mexico
3242	Elliott Ring	Livonia, Michigan
3243	Kenneth Zykowski	Utica, Michigan
3244	Mickey Munro	Waterford, Michigan
3245	Robert E. Anderson	Grand Rapids, Michigan
3246	Rick Sundman	Littleton, New Hampshire
3248	Benjamin R. Schilling	Farmington Hills, Michigan
3249	Ross Payne	Idaho Falls, Idaho
3250	Rod Widok	Roselle, Illinois
3251	Robert C. LeBlanc	Boston, Mass.
3252	Michael Jay Broers	Mason City, Iowa
3253	Gary Geimer	Manitowoc, Wisconsin
3254	Michael Oyster	Dallas, Texas
3255	William G. Crawford, M.D.	Belleville, Illinois
3256	Dennis K. Pzniak	Lake Orion, Michigan
3257	Irene K. Murphree	Albuquerque, New Mexico
3258	William E. Hokanson	Lincoln, Nebraska
3259	Charles Clifford	Dallas, Texas
3260	Harry W. Walker	Dallas, Texas
3261	Roger J. Herman	Monsey, New York
3262	Dennis Muffler	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
3263	Robert D. Hatfield	Taylor, Michigan
3264	Michael Pesha	Chicago, Illinois
3265	Randy Disselkoen	Grand Rapids, Michigan
3266	Bill N. Rask	Gering, Nebraska
3267	Barton O. Lewis	Lincoln, Nebraska
3268	Alfred J. Babka	Scottsbluff, Nebraska
3269	Lawrence C. Gibbs	Gering, Nebraska
3270	William L. Quarles	Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ATTENTION: AUCTION HOUSES !

The present auction contract for Central States Conventions runs out with Lincoln, Nebraska. Bids for future auctions, preferably for two years, may be submitted to CSNS, Office of the Secretary-Treasurer. The bids will be considered at the interim meeting this fall when the Board convenes at an as yet undisclosed location.

FUTURE CSNS CONVENTIONS

- 1980 — April 17 - 20 Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln, Nebraska
Chairman: Lawrence (Larry) E. Rowe, 7409 Aylesworth,
Lincoln, Nebraska (Telephone: 402-466-2265)
- 1981 — Dates to be announced. Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1982 — Dates to be announced. Cedar Rapids, Iowa

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

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Carter	12.75	79.75	84.75
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION

All of the necessary business of the Central States Numismatic Society was transacted during the 40th Anniversary Convention in Dearborn, Mich. The suggested By-Law changes were adopted at the membership meeting and are now in force. These were all internal changes which in no way effect the rights and privileges of the membership. They were proposed and adopted to smooth the day-to-day operation of the Society.

Sincere thanks of CSNS go to the Lewis M. Reagan Foundation who graciously furnished the Julian Marks Award for the best paper money exhibit at the show, and the Elston D. Bradfield Award for the best article appearing this past year in The Centinel. The Marks Award was won by John Wilson of Wisconsin, while the Bradfield Award went to Victor C. Siebert of Kansas.

The grant CSNS made to the custodians of the Byron Reed Collection at the interim meeting of the Board was extremely fruitful. They completed their work and presented, through Board Member Leonard Owen, a set of slides of the collection as well as a running commentary describing the displays. As soon as procedures are complete, the slides will be made available to member clubs of CSNS.

Lincoln, Nebraska, reported that all systems are go for the 41st Anniversary Convention in that city. Information regarding the Convention may be secured by writing: Larry Rowe, P. O. Box 3001, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503.

One of our Past Presidents and a long-time Board member, Ray O. Lefman, was honored by Krause Publications with their Numismatic Ambassador Award for his contribution to our great hobby. The handsome

plaque was presented by Cliff Mischler of Krause's.

The Central States Medal of Merit was presented to the following ladies who have contributed greatly to the prestige the CSNS enjoys in the Numismatic field: Marian Yeoman, Tillie Boosel, Betty Lefman, Dottie Cooper, Wanda Parker, and Susanne Berk.

Special Notice

It is with a great deal of pride we announce that CSNS has voted a \$500 scholarship to the A.N.A. Seminar in Colorado Springs. A Junior member of CSNS wishing to be considered for the award should submit a resume of his or her qualifications as soon as possible. The scholarship will be for the year 1980.

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IS NUMISMATICS LOSING IT'S WAY?

— AN EDITORIAL —

After spending 35 years in this hobby and still maintaining an enthusiasm for it, the writer has observed several incidents lately that both puzzle and shock him. One: In the organizing of a young group of collectors into a club several years ago, we decided that to encourage the youngsters we would take a box of relatively 'easy' date cents to the meeting. Early date — yes; scarce — not hardly! We made a 'junk box' heap of them at a table and allowed the youngsters to prowl through the heaps.

Most picked out several coins and brought them to the owner. They asked the price. Being 'junk box' material, the price was a very modest double face, however, and this disturbed us no end. One of the lads was slowly picking through the coins putting aside many in stacks, and then came to us and — get this — automatically offering double face for the coins. The point is: all the coins he had selected were just a bit scarcer than usual.

Accumen? Not hardly! At the very next meeting he was offering them to his fellow collectors at three for a dime! The attitude disturbed us.

Shortly after that meeting, we decided we would offer slightly better material in auction style to the group. Our aim was to acquaint the group with auction principles and allow a little friendly competition. After only three lots, we stopped the auction and gave the youngsters a stern lecture about placing a value and a limit on what one should bid in auction.

We thought we were doing 'the right thing'! We began the auction at where we had left off and went through the 50 lots we had assembled. Bidding was much more sedate and a great

deal wiser. However, when the time came to claim the lots and pay for them, a young chap not over 14 years of age came up to pay for five or six lots he had been successful in purchasing and took a wad out of his pocket with two \$20 bills wrapped on top of the wad.

We asked him how it was that he had come so well heeled? His answer, "I told the 'old man' what was happening and he gave me the money"! It is our belief that the parent who had done this to his son was certainly short changing the boy — and badly. We asked the boy if he had a paper route or any chores he could do to earn money to indulge in his collecting? No, he just asked and got! Do you feel that there could be any deep appreciation for that collection? Not the way we appreciate the material we have assembled in our 35 years in the hobby.

Case two: Just a few weeks ago at a small local Coin and Stamp Club we observed two youngsters working on a swap. Both were armed with the 'Red Book', both carried quote sheets taken from a weekly numismatic publication. After a lot of dickering, a lot of bickering, no coins changed hands. We talked with both boys separately later. Each had coins the other wanted and needed but neither boy would give an inch to the other in valuing either their own or the other fellows coins. We believe again the attitude was all wrong.

When one talks of \$50 or \$100 coins, the amount is appreciable. But when two boys are talking of swapping .50 or .60 coins, why can't they take the attitude that sometime in the future perhaps the other chap will 'give a bit'? We got the kids together later

after the meeting and with a bit of arbitration, a swap was made and two kids went home happier than when they came.

We can remember back into the mid 40's. One evening the phone rang. A voice at the other end asked if this was Dan Parker? Yes, I answered. The next question stunned me. Are you a coin collector? Then I realized why the question was asked. It is customary in our home town that when we return rolls of coins to the bank, it is necessary to put your name and address on the roll wrappers.

The chap had run into my name and found nothing worthwhile in the rolls. He rightly assumed he had run into another coin collector. We got together shortly after that. Each of us brought our spare material and a collection. We spent a very pleasant evening and both came away much richer for the joy of sharing.

My Special Lady

by Delores Ayers Dunond

You were quite small, not big at all!;
Your beauty and splendor captured me.

I studied you from afar, and then up close.

You had no blemishes or marks. I had to have you —

No matter what the cost;

I was afraid you'd slip away from me and be lost.

Now, you belong to me.

I put you on exhibit for all the world to see.

My lady — Liberty!

Thank you, Mr. St. Gaudens.

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Essay, Proof, Specimen, New Hessler Work

'U. S. Essay, Proof and Specimen Notes' is a totally new paper money reference book by Gene Hessler. It is being released by the BNR Press at the Memphis Paper Money Show.

The book is the first serious study of the little known essay, proof and specimen notes of the United States. Mr. Hessler has left no stone unturned in his attempt to make the book as comprehensive as possible. For the past five years he has been pouring over thousands of documents in the National Archives and virtually every imaginable syngraphic source. He has tracked down pieces which were only mentioned in the source documents. In one case, he drove through a dangerous blizzard to get the opportunity to photograph some artist's sketches.

Included in the book are more than 500 listings of large and small size notes as well as military issues; fractional currency is not included. The listings include all known or reported essay and proof notes as well as specimen notes which are privately held. Reports of auction and public sales are included where such sales have been recorded.

For the first time it is possible to see how most of the issues of the United States developed. Preliminary sketches, partial designs and completed but unissued notes are all included with many illustrated. The compilation of 300 spectacular photographs is remarkable in itself.

All categories of U. S. paper money; demand notes, legal tender notes, notes for the redemption of interest bearing treasury notes, interest bearing treasury notes, currency certificates of deposit, silver certificates, treasury notes, national banknotes, federal reserve notes, California gold notes, gold certificates, experimental and military issues, are covered. Each

area reveals new information. The national bank circulating notes which were prepared but not issued, is but one example of the type of new discoveries to be found in the book.

The introductory material of the book outlines the development of paper money and security printing in the United States. Numerous illustrations of general interest are included here.

The foreword by James Conlon, the popular director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing 1967-1977, gives a new insight into the behind the scenes aspect of paper money production. Conlon states that the book conjured up personal nostalgia for him and shared the feelings in the foreword. Specifically, he mentions the federal reserve \$2 note which was introduced during his tenure.

Hessler is a respected numismatist. He is the former curator of the Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum and the author of several other numismatic books. Now in its second edition, 'The Comprehensive Catalog of U. S. Paper Money' is a standard reference for paper money collectors. Just as with his newest work, that book included many innovations. It introduced the term syngraphics for paper money study and collecting. In addition he added new depth to previous listings and expanded coverage to include areas which had been ignored by other catalogs.

The book is a high quality hard-bound volume with 224 pages, more than 500 listings and 300 illustrations. It is fully indexed and cross referenced. The book will be available from book dealers around the country and is priced at a reasonable \$19.50. Additional information may be obtained from the publisher at Box 157, Portage, Ohio 43451.

NEWS FROM YOUR A.N.A.

The ANA announces that it has received a donation of some significant coins of the ancient world. Stack's of New York has donated for the ANA Museum some of the most interesting coins of history. Among them are: The Shekel of Tyre, which was one of the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed his friend Jesus Christ.

The second coin is the Denarius of Tiberius, also called the tribute penny ("Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's"). Also donated were three pieces of the Widow's Mite — a Lepton of Tiberius, and two Leptons of the notorious Pontius Pilate. All of the above were among many ancients contributed by Stack's.

The Intermediate Correspondence Course is ready and available to both members and non-members of the ANA. It is a 491 page, 20 chapter course. Each section has been authored by a well-known specialist in his field. It covers practically every facet in the field of numismatics. Cost to adult members is \$15; for juniors the price is \$11.00. Applications for the course may be made to: The American Numismatic Association, P. O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.

Member No. 100,000 will soon be enrolled in the ANA. He or she will get a windfall of \$500 toward covering expenses to the ANA Convention in St. Louis this summer.

'Leaks' Reported On New Coin

The following news item was taken from the *Kansas City Star* on Tuesday, May 22.

Washington (AP) — Samples of the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin are being exchanged prematurely and Rep. Frank Annunzio wants the Justice Department to find the leak and stop it.

Annunzio, D-Ill., said a preliminary check by his staff turned up at least four ways the coins may have been put in unauthorized circulation prior to the July 2 release date:

— The U. S. Mint has distributed 10,000 coins to twenty coin equipment manufacturers for testing.

— The Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve has passed nearly 9,000 coins to 120 banks in Michigan. One of the banks loaned 250 coins to a large retailer. Some of the coins turned up at a Michigan coin show.

— Employees of the New York Federal Reserve Bank carry specimen coins around with them to show bankers.

— Chemical Bank and Trust Company of New York has already received a shipment of two million coins.

The Congressman said he believes anyone in possession of a Susan B. Anthony dollar without permission of the U. S. Mint is guilty of receiving stolen government property.

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A Peek On The Inside

An Editorial

This is an election year in The American Numismatic Association. It behooves us as qualified electors to carefully scan the qualifications of the many candidates for the Board of A.N.A. We owe a duty to ourselves, the A.N.A., and to our beloved hobby to select only those candidates who will deliver the goods. Certainly we have favorites whom we have selected from long and personal knowledge and from careful scrutiny of their programs.

The Editor of The Centinel has no bones to pick with any individual. However, after spending hours listening to the petty politics and nit-picking in Houston, we feel all candidates should stand the closest examination. Select carefully and be sure to vote. Every election is important and every office is equally important!

For President and Vice-President

George D. Hatie and Adna G. Wilde, Jr. Two distinct personalities. Both known personally to this Editor for many years, both possess personal integrity, both have contributed greatly to the hobby and served it well. We heartily recommend both.

For The Board

(Here we have a change in the method of election.)

Seat No. 1

James Betton, Byron Johnson, Eldridge Jones, Florence Schook, and William Horton. All competent, all dedicated, take your pick.

Seat No. 2

Kurt Krueger and Morton Reed. Both knowledgeable and able.

Seat No. 3

Joe Franz, Gary Lewis, and Chuck O'Donnell. Good men all!

Seat No. 4

Al Baber and Grover Criswell. Both highly able.

Seat No. 5

Q. David Bowers. His reputation precedes him.

Seat No. 6

Harry X. Boosel, Harold Don Allen, Howard Herz, Robert Rhue, Jackson Storm, Steven Taylor, and Larry Spanbauer. Again, take your pick.

Seat No. 7

Virgil Hancock and Robert Colcock. Old timers whose record is impeccable.

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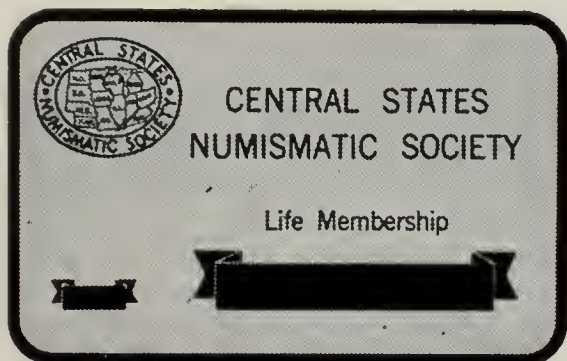
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Boyne Falls, Michigan 49713

A TALE OF TWO COLLECTORS

by DONN PEARLMAN, NLG
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS CSNS 2909

Wanna buy some Gem BU coins at 30 percent below wholesale? Wanna bet you won't get what you paid for?

A few months ago I received an interesting telephone call at my Chicago office from a Detroit area collector/investor who read an expose I wrote earlier in the year for a hobby magazine. The article (**American Collector**, January, 1979) was an exercise in investigative journalism involving one of the magazine's own advertisers, a rather unusual circumstance considering how protective many publications and broadcasters might be in that type of situation.

With the blessings of the Editor and the Publisher, I demonstrated how that particular advertiser's rare coin offerings seemed too good to be true simply because they were not. All the prices in the retail ad were 30 to 50 percent below then prevailing wholesale quotes.

How could the advertiser sell so cheaply? The merchandise the dealer shipped to customers was grossly overgraded — what did you expect, Santa Claus?

His advertising privileges in the magazine were immediately revoked, and he has since been barred from several other publications, too. However, there probably are a number of "satisfied customers" of the B & L Coin Company of Linglestown, Pa., out there who purchased coins through the mail and do not realize their collections probably contain overgraded "bargains". They may not realize it until they try to sell the coins — or, their heirs go to sell them.

The Detroit caller — an articulate,

professional man — wanted to tell me about his own recent Coin Encounters of the Troublesome Kind. With his permission I pass along the gory details with the hope the episode may convince bargain-hunters that good deals can be found, but no reputable coin dealer is taking out retail ads to sell rare coins at below wholesale prices. No one.

In September, 1978, the Detroit area collector and his investment partner responded to an advertisement offering Gem BU gold pieces at luring prices. They sent a certified check for \$12,000 to purchase 50 Gem BU U. S. \$10 Indian gold pieces. (Before you reach for your pocket calculator, that comes to only \$240 per coin, considerably below prevailing wholesale prices at that time.)

That would appear to be a spectacular bargain. However, that assumes all the pieces are indeed Gem BU, or even Choice BU. It also assumes the buyer will receive all 50 pieces ordered.

Only 20 coins were sent by the dealer to the Detroit buyers. Repeated requests for shipment of the remaining 30 coins brought explanations that the firm's coin buyers were still busy scouting around for the Gem quality coins to fulfill the complete order. In desperation, the Detroit professional man turned over the matter to his personal attorney.

A few months of frantic numismatic marketplace activity had passed during this exchange of letters and the Detroit collector/investor felt he could sell the coins he did receive earlier from the firm and realize a nice profit. Afterall, he "bought them right", well below wholesale. So, he sent five of them to one of the country's largest rare coin dealerships on the West Coast and another five to one of the country's oldest firms on the East Coast.

Surprise! All ten were returned with polite suggestions to send them to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The coins indeed may have been accurately graded as Gem BU; too bad they were all counterfeit.

The reason the financially-stunned Detroit man called me was to explain what happened to him with that mail-order company and to ask a question: "Can I get back my coins even as melted gold bullion?"

The very morning of his telephone call to me the Secret Service had visited the caller in his office (which he used as his address when buying coins through the mail) and requested to inspect any and all coins purchased from the firm in question, Panther Valley of Pennsylvania. The agents were told the coins were at the attorney's office, that the matter was in his hands now, too.

At the lawyer's office the Secret Service agents briefly examined the 20 coins and gave the attorney a receipt for them. The coins probably would be used in future legal proceedings, they explained, and it is illegal to possess counterfeits of legal tender money. The agents indicated they had acquired customer records of the coin dealer and were tracking down other suspected counterfeit merchandise.

"Can I get my coins back, even as gold?", the Detroit man asked. "No", I told him, "probably not, although after the litigation is finally completed in a few years the government might charge you a melting fee and return your purchase as bullion — but don't hold your breath".

Instead of making a quick capitol gain, this collector and his investment partner were able to take a \$12,000 loss on their taxes. Had they purchased quality merchandise from

reputable mail-order dealers our tale of two collectors would have a happy ending.

Moral: Tis a far, far better thing that you deal with reputable mail-order firms. If you only seek improbable bargains you could lose your head.

About the author: Donn Pearlman is a broadcast journalist with CBS-WBBM Chicago and President of the Morton Grove, Ill., Coin Club, as well as a member of various regional and national numismatic organizations. In 1977 he received the Professional Numismatists Guild "Sol Kaplan Award" for outstanding service to the hobby for his three-month probe of several questionable mail-order coin dealers. Donn welcomes comments from readers and can be contacted at P. O. Box 750, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

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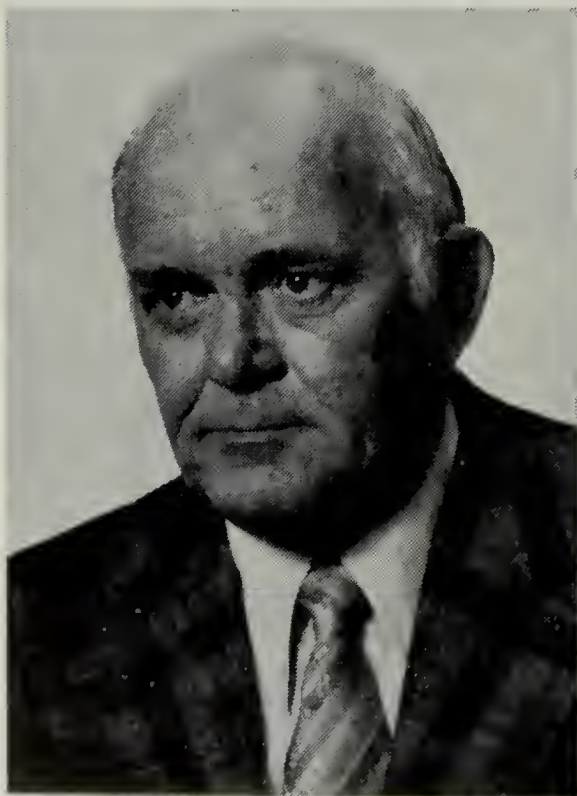
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A view of the East Midway with the Twin Tower Restaurant at left foreground.

The Summer of 1898

by Leonard M. Owen



Leonard M. Owen

This is to be a story of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition which was held in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 1 to October 31, 1898. These weeks were filled with frenzied activity.

Months of preparation had taken place before the opening day of June 1. Construction on the Lagoon had started on April 28, 1897. The contract for the building of the Administration Arch was awarded on July 1, 1897, and construction was started eight days later. Contracts for the other buildings, building of fences to enclose the grounds, landscaping, walks, etc. were to follow. This created jobs for many people. This activity was welcomed by the people of the area because of the financial panic being felt by the entire country.

After the success of the Columbian Exposition of 1893, it was thought by many people that a mid-continent exposition should be held. California had held a mid-winter exposition that opened in January of 1894. This was a State Exposition.

Kansas City was advocating the holding of a mid-continent exposition, while Denver was proposing a Western States exposition. Texas was planning a Western and Southern States exposition at Galveston, and Minneapolis and St. Paul were talking of a Northwestern States exposition.

With all this agitation for a Western exposition, public-spirited men from Omaha decided to get into the act. In the fall of 1894 the Trans-Mississippi Congress held its annual meeting in St. Louis. This was a group of men from the western states who had gotten together to promote the commercial and material interests of their area. The Nebraska delegation presented a formal invitation to the Congress to have their next meeting in Omaha. The invitation was accepted and the Congress assembled in Omaha in November of 1895.



Trans-Mississippi Executive Badge. These were hand-made in gold for the officers of the exposition. Total height of badge is 3".

The Nebraska delegation selected a committee of five delegates to present a prepared resolution to the Congress with William Jennings Bryan as the spokesman. The proposal was presented and accepted by the Congress with delegates from the States of Minnesota, Missouri, Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska. The Exposition was to be held during the months of August, September, and October of 1898.

The actions of this Congress paved the way for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition which was held in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 1 to October 31, 1898.

The total cost of the buildings that were built by the Exposition came to almost \$600,000, with the Agricultural Building topping the list at a cost of \$61,987.51. The \$600,000 figure, however, did not include the cost of construction of the state buildings, fences, the lagoon, landscaping, walks, 14,000 trees, bushes, shrubs, 100,000 plants, flowers, etc.



Souvenir Badge. Height 1 7/8".



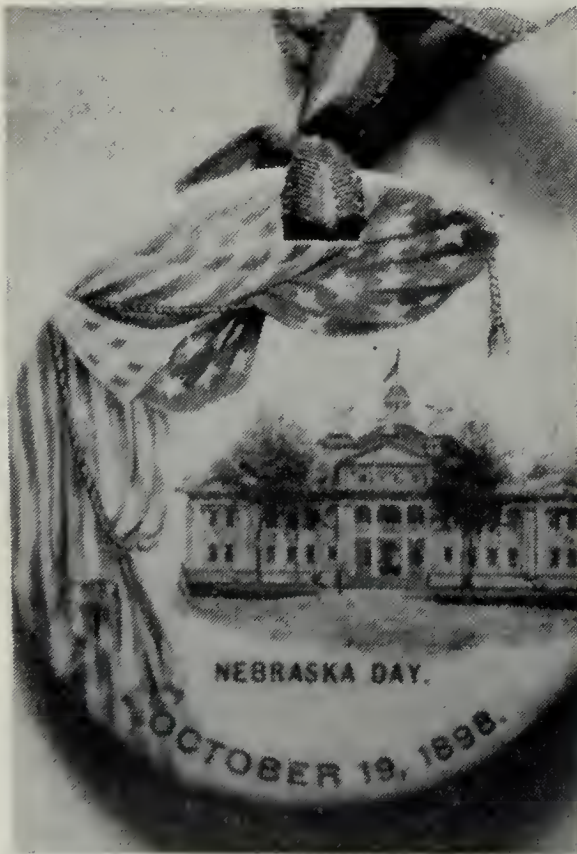
Trans-Mississippi Souvenir badge in bronze. Height 2".



Picture Buttons. Diameter 1 1/2"

Upper: The Arch of States

Lower: The Giant See-Saw



Nebraska Day Picture Badge with ribbon. Diameter 2 1/8". This is a picture of the Nebraska Building.



Pennsylvania Day Picture Pin.

Diameter 1 3/4".

The Exposition was held to glorify the accomplishments of the Trans-Mississippi area which was all of the states west of the Mississippi River. Other states, however, wished to participate in the exposition and state buildings were built by New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Georgia. Other states east of the Mississippi River with exhibits but no buildings were Alabama, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.



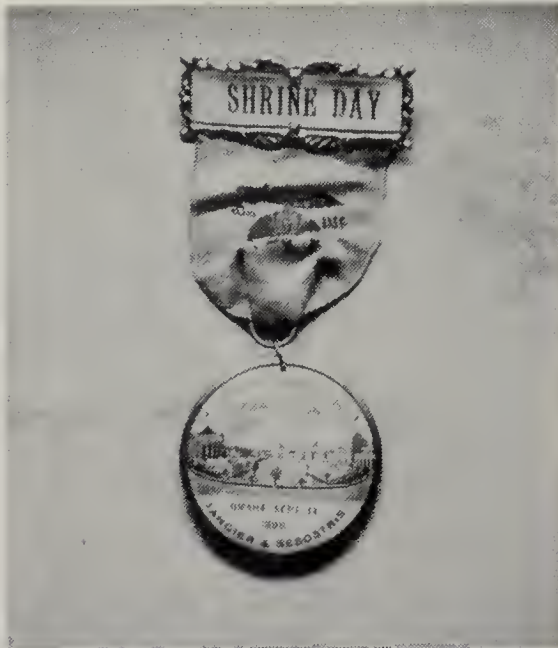
Picture Buttons. Diameter 1½".
Upper: Bird's Eye View of Grand Court
Lower: U. S. Government Building

The reported total admissions for the five months period was 2,613,508 with President McKinley drawing the biggest crowd of 98,845 on October 12. I will not try to list them all as the list would be too lengthy, however, a few of the special days were as follows: Wisconsin Day, June 18; Illinois Day, June 21; Kansas Dedication Day, June 22; Iowa Dedication and Press Day, June 23; Swedish-American Day,

July 4; Trans-Mississippi Education Day, June 28; Independence Day, July 4; Louisiana Press Day, July 7; Massachusetts Day, July 11; Minnesota Dedication Day, July 20; Indiana Day, August 4; Texas Day, August 18; Bohemian Day, August 27; Government Day, Sept. 20; President's Day, October 12; Nebraska Day, October 19; Utah Day, October 20; etc.



German Day Picture Badge. Ribbon has been removed. Diameter 2⅛".



Shrine Day Badge. Height 4⅜".



Trans-Mississippi Bohemian Day.
August 27, 1898. Total height 2½".

This badge is in bronze. Most special days had a badge or pin for their days but very few were in metal.

Many of the special days were remembered by the issuing of buttons, badges, pins, or other memorabilia. Many of these items were given away while most of the rest could be bought at the time for very little.

(Continued on Page 24)

"For All Your Hobby Needs"

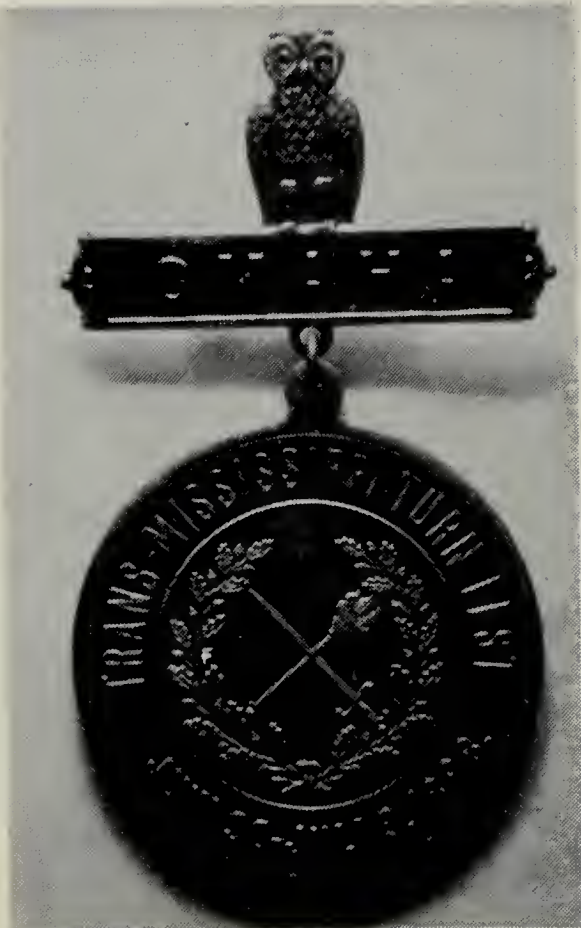
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Trans-Mississippi Turn Fest Badge in
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Trans-Mississippi Delegate Badge and
ribbon. Total height 6½".

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The Burlington Railroad put out a special rate bulletin effective from June 1, with the round trip rates to be as listed:

St. Louis to Omaha and return .. \$18.50
Chicago to Omaha and return .. \$20.50
Peoria to Omaha and return \$18.10
Quincy to Omaha and return \$15.80
Canton to Omaha and return \$15.80
Keokuk to Omaha and return .. \$14.70
Etc., etc.

The bulletin was called the Summer Tourist and Omaha Exposition Rate Schedule and also stated that for \$1.00 extra a stop over of five days would be allowed on all tickets of every character, regularly as applying through Omaha. These rates helped to swell the admissions to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition as well as giving some revenue to the railroads.

The Exposition grounds were built on an area of 184 acres in northeast Omaha. The area was bordered on the south by Binney Street, on the north by Ames Avenue, to the east by the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks, and to the west by 24th Street.

This area was covered by the Lagoon, exhibit buildings around the lagoon, the East Midway, North Midway, the West Midway, other exhibit buildings, and 247 concession and privilege stands or exhibits who reported sales of \$3,008,569.80, over the period of the five month Exposition.

F. A. Rinehart was the official photographer for the exposition and he took over 1200 photographs of the buildings, grounds, Indians at the Exposition, etc. These were sold on the grounds as 8" by 10" or 5" by 7" photographs or in booklet form with several of the pictures in each booklet. Many different photo books and booklets with Rinehart pictures are known to exist.



A metal Trans - Mississippi Souvenir Badge. Horns and medal of bronze and wreath of copper. Height $2\frac{1}{8}$ ".



Trans-Mississippi Souvenir Badge. Height $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". This one is in bronze but they were also made in white metal.

Samuel J. Howe had the contract to print and sell the weekly Official Programs. These were usually of about 16 pages printed on both sides and carried paid ads as well as news of the events of the week.

(Continued on Page 26)



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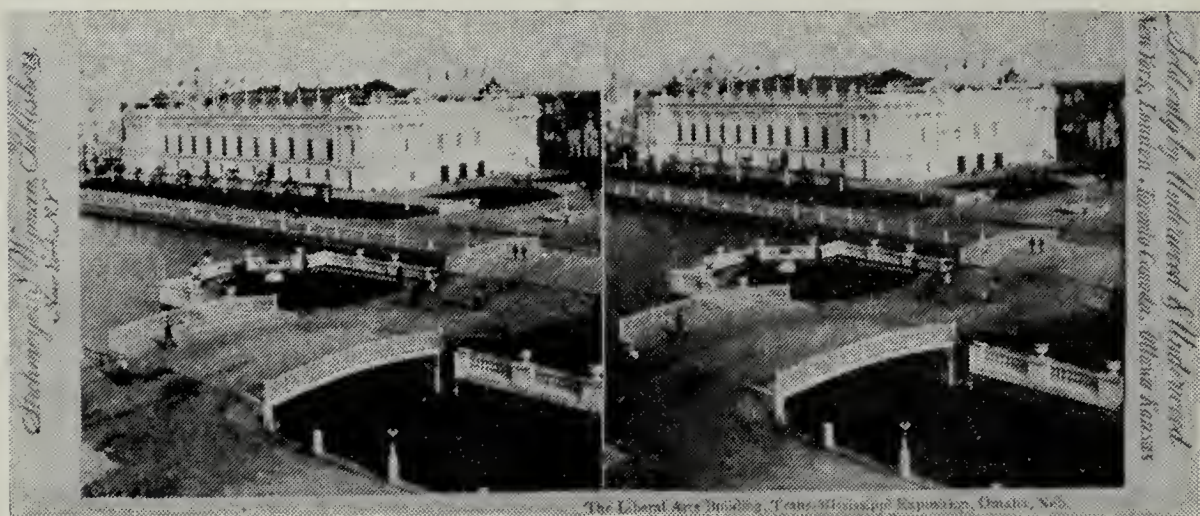
Many other booklets were printed by other exhibitors and were sold or given away at the Exposition. Booklets were also printed for most of the "Special Days" at the Exposition.

Mr. Rinehart was the Official Photographer for the Exposition but he either did not have the equipment for taking stereo pictures, or did not want to bother with them, as Strohmeyer and Wyman took many stereo views at the Exposition which were sold by Underwood and Underwood. Most of these cards are of excellent quality stereoscopically.

Official Trans-Mississippi medals (H & K No. 282) in bronze and the lower denomination postage stamps are the only items that come to mind that would not fit into the scarce category.

The Trans-Mississippi postage stamps were printed in the following denominations:

- 1c "Marquette on the Mississippi"
- 2c "Farming in the West"
- 4c "Indian Hunting Buffalo"
- 5c "Fremont in Rocky Mountains"
- 8c "Troops Guarding Train"
- 10c "Hardships of Emigration"
- 50c "Western Mining Prospector"



The Liberal Arts Building

One of the many Stereo Views taken by Strohmeyer and Wyman.

Many different glass paper weights, pin or change trays, cups, toothpick holders, dishes, etc. have been found from this Exposition. A few green glass items are known but they are much scarcer than the familiar ruby glass items.

Many different items from the Columbian and St. Louis Expositions are still readily available today but this is not the case with Trans - Mississippi Exposition material. Although many different items were made for the Trans - Mississippi Exposition, they were made in lesser quantity and if you wish to collect material from this exposition, you must take what is available because if you hold out for nothing but the best quality, your collection will not grow very fast. The

- \$1 "Western Cattle in Storm"
- \$2 "Mississippi River Bridge"

Post cards with pictures of the buildings at the Expo were also available at the exposition. These were printed in color on official United States government 1c postal cards. These cards had the following pictures on them:

- Manufacturers Building
- Agriculture Building
- Auditorium Building
- U. S. Government Building
- Mines and Mining Building
- Machinery and Electricity Building
- Boys and Girls Building
- Horticulture Building
- Fine Arts Building
- Liberal Arts Building



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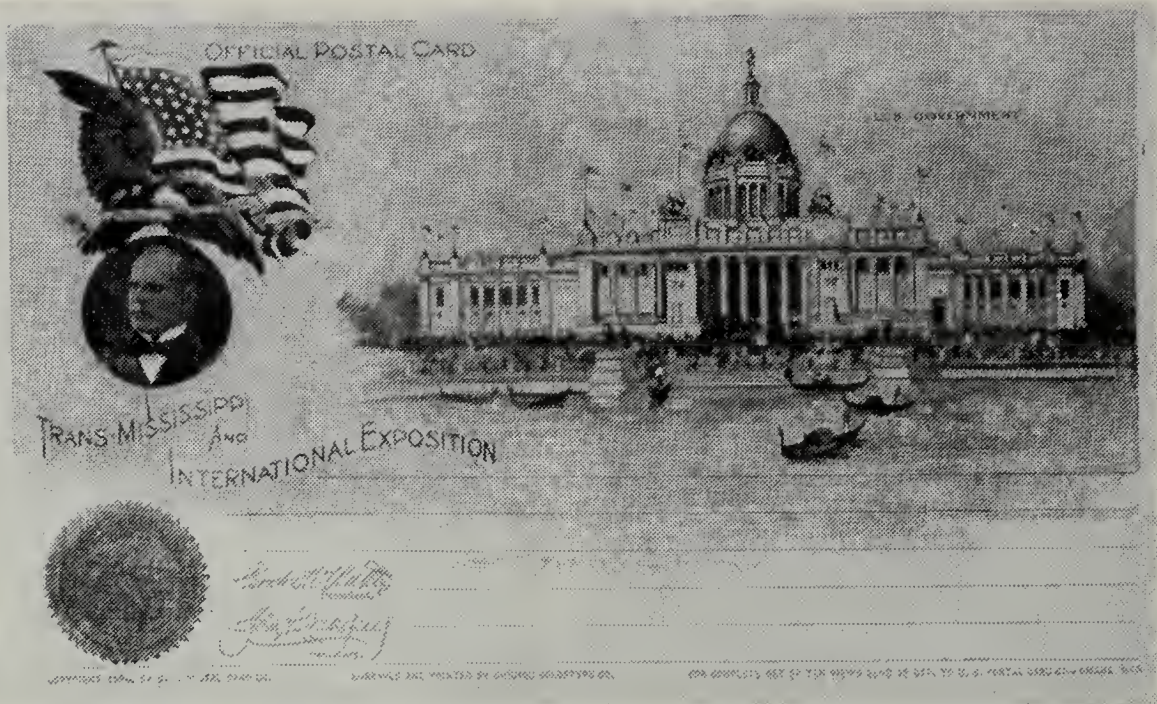
Large 2 7/16" diameter by 5/16" thick metals were awarded to the exhibitors. These awards were in gold, silver, and bronze. I have one of the gold medals that was presented to Libby, McNeill, & Libby for their peerless sliced dried beef. This medal is actually one of the bronze medals that has been gold plated. The same medals could be bought by the general public with the word "souvenir" on the back.

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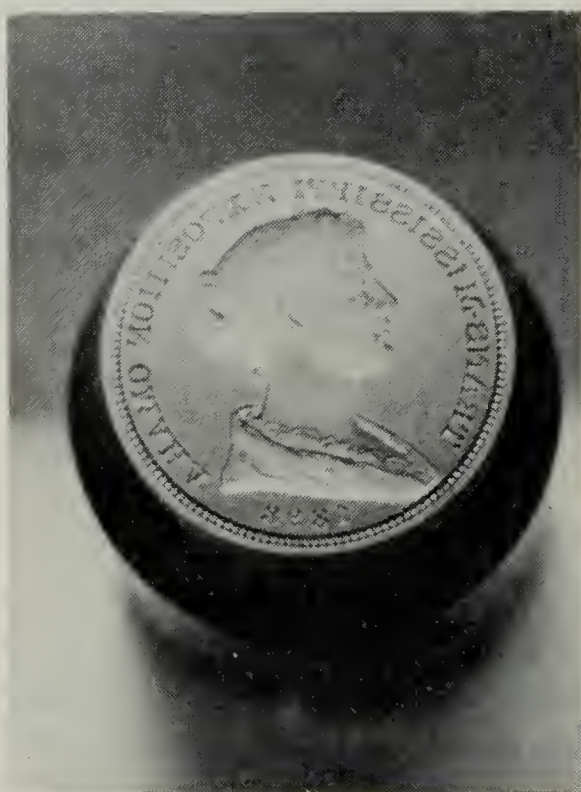
Trans-Mississippi Post Card. On official U. S. government postal card.

The above cards were known as the Official cards. Others are known to exist but they are more rare than the above.

The local, as well as the national, news media covered the happenings of the Exposition throughout the year, with pictures as well as articles. The Bee Publishing Company of Omaha commissioned the artist, John R. Key, to create a series of pictures of the Exposition. Colored lithos of these pictures were made by the Lith. Taber-Prang Art Co., Boston, Mass. These pictures are 10" by 15" on heavy card stock of 14" by 19" and are a welcome addition to any collection today.

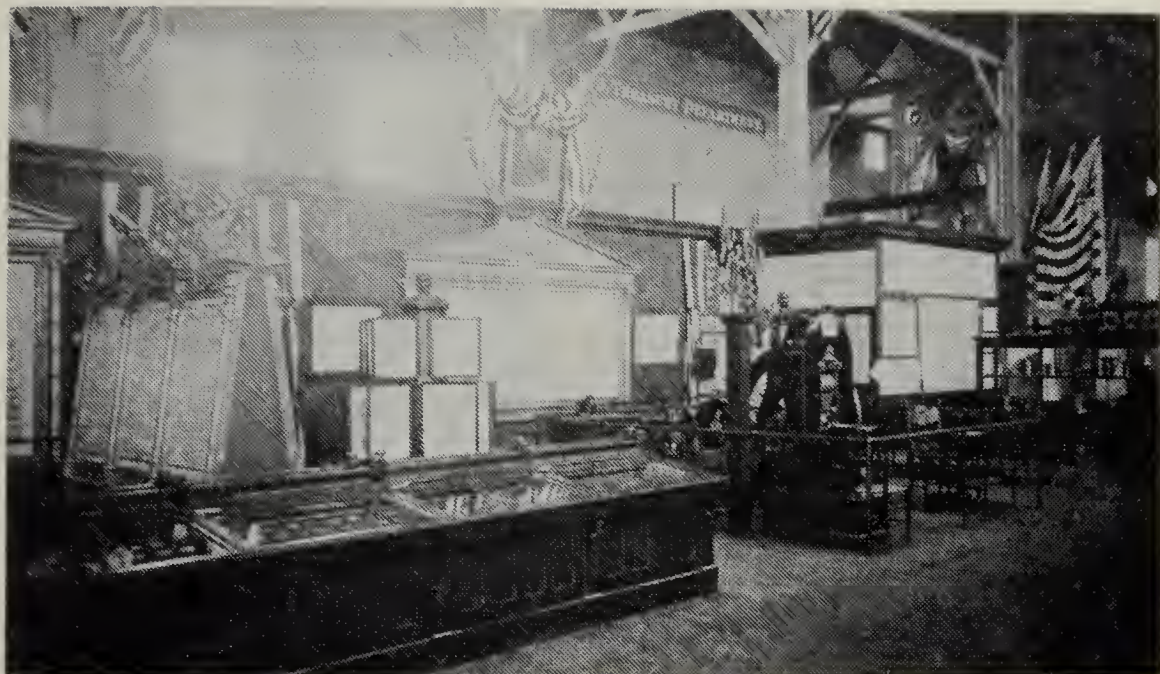
Some of the other souvenir material that may be found are: many different sizes and shapes of metal trays, letter openers, stamp boxes, match safes, handkerchiefs, change purses, cups, saucers, metal framed pictures, etc.

The U. S. Government exhibit had a silver dollar press that was brought in from the San Francisco mint. Dies for the Official Trans-Mississippi Medal were made at the Philadelphia mint. These dies were used with the silver dollar press for the striking of the Official Medals which were struck and



An Obverse die for the Official Trans-Mississippi medal. Note that all printing in picture is in reverse.

available for purchase at the Exposition. These medals are 1 5/16" in diameter and are listed in Hibler and Kappen's book as No. 281, No. 282, and No. 283. They also list a No. 283a in copper as extremely rare that I have never had the pleasure of seeing.



U. S. Treasury Exhibit with coin press that the "Official" Trans-Mississippi Medals were struck on.



The Official Trans-Mississippi medal.

Upper: Silver H&K No. 281

Lower: Bronze H&K No. 282

were available, as well as Peace Jubilee items. The Peace Jubilee was celebrated at the Exposition as well as in most other parts of the country at the end of the hostilities.



Peace Jubilee bronze badge with metal flag holder. Height $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Several "Remember the Maine" and other Spanish-American war items



**Peace Jubilee with flag ribbon.
Height 5".**

The side shows and rides were varied and entertaining. Chiquita was known as the "Cuban Atom". She was a female Tom-Thumb. Una was the female stripper, but some of her customers were unhappy to find that she was wearing more clothes than they were. Other attractions to visit were



**A picture pin of Chiquita.
Diameter 1 3/4".**



This is UNA. This is a metal framed picture that was sold at the Expo.

as follows: "Streets of all Nations" attempted to present types of many races, running largely to the Oriental. "Streets of Cairo" created an atmosphere of Egyptian life. "The Moorish Palace" was a large Algerian temple.

The Afro-American Village was a reproduction of a typical southern plantation. The Philippine Village, the Chinese Village, Hagenbeek's Trained Animal Show, Havana and the Maine, the Merrimae and Monitor, the Magic Maze, the Japanese Tea Gardens, Haunted Swing, Giant See-Saw, the Scenic Railway, Wild West Show, Plymouth Colony, Bohemian Inn, California gold mining tunnel, glass blowers, ostrich farm, the Indian encampment, Railroad exhibits, and on and on. This was the fun area when the fair-goers had tired of looking at the many educational exhibits.

Although H & K only lists the Official Medal with No. 281 through No. 283a, and the Additional Medal with No. 284 and No. 284a, a considerable

number of bronze, copper, and aluminum medals with a diameter of $1\frac{7}{16}$ " were produced. These medals had an obverse similar to the large $2\frac{7}{16}$ " medal with many different reverses.



Trans-Mississippi Souvenir Badge.
This is in White Metal H&K No. 284a.
Medal is $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Height of
total including ribbon holder is $3\frac{1}{4}$ ".

The above mentioned medals had the advertisements of the various exhibitors on the reverse.

One would have to write a book to cover this subject adequately, but it is hoped that this article will give the reader some aspect of the quantity and types of items to be found.

About the author:

Leonard Owen is a long-time collector from Iowa and Nebraska. He is active in both states and is an elected Governor of CSNS. Questions regarding the exposition may be addressed to him at: 684 No. 59th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68132.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Fellow Numismatists:

The idea of a Russian Numismatics Holiday has been proposed for a number of years but action has not been forthcoming. Realizing that strong leadership is necessary to successfully initiate and maintain a productive organization, the undersigned are proud to announce the formation of the Russian Numismatic Society.

The Society will have a central aim of collecting and disseminating accurate information in the spectrum which constitutes Russian numismatics. To further this goal, the Society will publish a quarterly journal dealing with original research, bibliography, counterfeits, auction trends, and other timely topics.

The Society is currently accepting applications for membership. Details can be obtained by writing: Secretary Russian Numismatic Society, P. O. Box F-334, Akron, Ohio 44308, U.S.A.

Co-Editors

Russian Numismatic Journal

Ivan L. Schuster

James F. Elmen

Samuel T. Clements

The 1792 half dimes were not as currency. They were struck at George Washington's request and distributed by him as gifts. SO — if you own one — you have a token handled by the Father of Our Country!

Henry Voigt, first chief coiner at the Mint, and first Mint Director David Rittenhouse were both expert watch-makers.

Three planchet cutters operating at the Mint in 1795 produced 15,000-18,000 planchets daily.

JOIN C.S.N.S.



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Address all correspondence regarding **The Centinel** to the Editor.



Kurt R. Krueger

"For Discriminating Collectors"

I am constantly in the market for exonomia in the following categories:

- Rare Civil War Tokens
- All Wisconsin Civil War Tokens
- Early Elongates
- Early Wisconsin Items
- Assay Medals
- Leshner Dollars
- 1904 St. Louis Fair Items
- Unusual Encased Coins
- Advertising Mirrors
- Early Pin Backs
- Political Items
- Odd Stuff . . . and more!

I would be happy to place your want list of exonomia into my file.

Kurt R. Krueger

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